

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
AND CONSERVATION**  
Central Land Office



STEVE BULLOCK, GOVERNOR

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May 5, 2014

To: All Interested Parties

The 2003 State Legislature passed statutes (77-2-361 through 367-MCA) authorizing the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation the ability to sell state Trust land and utilize those funds to purchase replacement lands for the school Trust through a process called Land Banking. The intent of the program is for the state to dispose of scattered tracts of land that generally do not have legal access, generate substantially less income for the Trust than their relative value or are difficult for the Department to manage, and to then purchase property that is blocked or contiguous to state land, has legal access, has potential for increased Trust revenue and consequently is more efficient to manage. The statute placed limits on the amount of Trust Land that can be sold under Land Banking prior to an evaluation of the merits of the program by the Legislature in 2009. DNRC can sell no more than 250,000 acres under the current legislation.

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is reviewing the tract of State School Trust land listed below, for potential sale under this program.

We are currently conducting an analysis under the Montana Environmental Policy Act, of the impacts that may occur as a result of the proposed land sale listed below. The analysis will be completed prior to presenting the tract to the Board for preliminary approval. If approval is received from the Board, the Department would then conduct an appraisal to determine an estimated value and recommended minimum bid price for the tract proposed for sale.

By this letter, DNRC is requesting written comments under the Montana Environmental Policy Act regarding the possible sale of this tract. Comments will be considered if received by June 30, 2014, and may be sent to:

Gavin Anderson  
Central Land Office  
8001 North Montana Avenue  
Helena, MT 59602  
406-458-3502  
OR  
Email: gavinanderson@mt.gov

**Tract Being Considered for Sale**  
**East ½ West ½ of Section 12, Township 9North, Range 3West**

Sincerely,

Gavin Anderson  
Forest & Lands Program Manager  
Central Land Office